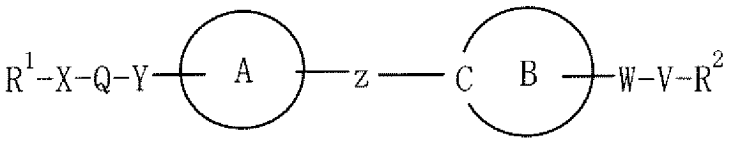
AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A compound represented by the formula:



(I)

wherein

R1 is an optionally substituted ~~5-membered heterocyclic~~ oxazolyl group;

X, Y and V

are the same or different and each is a bond, an oxygen atom, a sulfur atom, -CO-, -CS-, -SO-, -SO_2-, -$CR^3(OR^4)$-, -NR^5-, -$CONR^6$-, -NR^6CO-, -$CSNR^6$-, -NR^6CS- or -$CONR^6NR^7$- (R^3 is a hydrogen atom or an optionally substituted hydrocarbon group, R^4 is a hydrogen atom or a hydroxyl-protecting group, R^5 is a hydrogen atom, an optionally substituted hydrocarbon group or an amino-protecting group, and R^6 and R^7 are the same or different and each is a hydrogen atom or an optionally substituted hydrocarbon group);

Q is a divalent hydrocarbon group having 1 to 20 carbon atoms;

ring A is a benzene ring ~~an aromatic ring~~ optionally further having 1 to 3 substituents;

Z is -$(CH_2)_n$-Z^1- or -Z^1-$(CH_2)_n$- (n is an integer of ~~0~~ 1 to 8 and Z^1 is ~~a bond,~~ an oxygen atom~~, a sulfur atom, -CO-, -CS-, -SO-, -SO_2-, -NR^8-, -$CONR^8$-, -NR^8CO-, -$CSNR^8$- or -NR^8CS- (R^8 is a hydrogen atom or an optionally substituted hydrocarbon group)~~);

ring B is a ~~nitrogen-containing heterocycle~~ pyrazole ring optionally further having 1 to 3 substituents;

W is a bond or a divalent hydrocarbon group having 1 to 20 carbon atoms; and

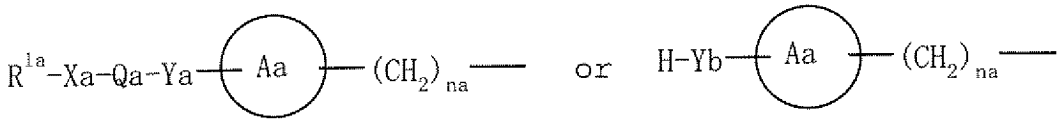
R^2 is ~~a hydrogen atom, a cyano group,~~ $-PO(OR^9)(OR^{10})$ (R^9 and R^{10} are the same or different and each is a hydrogen atom or an optionally substituted hydrocarbon group, or R^9 and R^{10} are optionally bonded to form an optionally substituted ring)~~, $-COR^{11}$ [R^{11} is a hydrogen atom, an optionally substituted hydrocarbon group, an optionally substituted heterocyclic group, $-OR^{12}$ (R^{12} is a hydrogen atom or an optionally substituted hydrocarbon group) or $-NR^{13}R^{14}$ (R^{13} and R^{14} are the same or different and each is a hydrogen atom, an optionally substituted hydrocarbon group, an optionally substituted heterocyclic group, an optionally substituted acyl group or an optionally substituted hydroxy group, or R^{13} and R^{14} are optionally bonded to form an optionally substituted ring)], an optionally substituted hydrocarbon group,~~ or an optionally substituted ~~heterocyclic~~ thiazolyl group,

provided that

~~1) -W-V-R2 is not "Wa-(C=O)-R^a [Wa is a saturated divalent hydrocarbon group having 1 to 20 carbon atoms and R^a is $-OR^b$ (R^b is a hydrogen atom or an optionally substituted hydrocarbon group) or $-NR^cR^d$ (R^c and R^d are the same or different and each is a hydrogen atom, an optionally substituted hydrocarbon group, an optionally substituted heterocyclic group or an acyl group, and R^c and R^d are optionally bonded to form an optionally substituted ring together with the adjacent nitrogen atom)]",~~

2 1) ring A and ring B do not have a substituent represented by the formula: -Wa-(C=O)-R^a [Wa is a saturated divalent hydrocarbon group having 1 to 20 carbon atoms and R^a is -OR^b (R^b is a hydrogen atom or an optionally substituted hydrocarbon group) or -NR^cR^d (R^c and R^d are the same or different and each is a hydrogen atom, an optionally substituted hydrocarbon group, an optionally substituted heterocyclic group or an acyl group, and R^c and R^d are optionally bonded to form an optionally substituted ring together with the adjacent nitrogen atom)] ~~(Wa and R^a are as defined above)~~,

3 2) ring B does not have, on a ring-constituting N atom, a substituent represented by the formula:



wherein

R^{1a} is an optionally substituted hydrocarbon group or an optionally substituted heterocyclic group;

Xa and Ya

are the same or different and each is a bond, an oxygen atom, a sulfur atom, -CO-, -CS-, -SO-, -SO_2-, -$CR^{3a}(OR^{4a})$-, -NR^{5a}-, -$CONR^{6a}$- or -$NR^{6a}CO$- (R^{3a} is a hydrogen atom or an optionally substituted hydrocarbon group, R^{4a} is a hydrogen atom or a hydroxyl-protecting group, R^{5a} is a hydrogen atom, an optionally substituted hydrocarbon group or an amino-protecting group, R^{6a} is a hydrogen atom or an optionally substituted hydrocarbon group);

Qa is a divalent hydrocarbon group having 1 to 20 carbon atoms;

ring Aa is an aromatic ring optionally further having 1 to 3 substituents;

na is an integer of 1 to 8; and

Yb is an oxygen atom, a sulfur atom or -NR^{6a}- (R^{6a} is as defined above),

[[4]] 3) -X-Q-Y- is not -(CH_2)na- (na is an integer of 1 to 8),

~~5) when the nitrogen-containing heterocycle represented by ring B is a pyridine ring, the ring B does not have a further substituent, W is a divalent hydrocarbon group having 1 to 20 carbon atoms, V is a bond and R2 is -$PO(OR^9)(OR^{10})$ or an optionally substituted heterocyclic group,~~

~~6~~ 4) when R^1 has a substituent represented by the formula: -Wa-(C=O)-R^a (Wa and R^a are as defined above), W is a divalent hydrocarbon group having 1 to 20 carbon atoms~~,~~ and V is a bond ~~and R^2 is -$PO(OR^9)(OR^{10})$ or an optionally substituted heterocyclic group~~,

~~except~~

~~5-{2-[4-(5-methyl-2-phenyl-1,3-oxazol-4-yl)methoxyphenyl]ethyl}-4-methoxymethoxymethyl-2-phenyl-1,3-oxazole;~~

~~(5-{2-[4-(5-methyl-2-phenyl-1,3-oxazol-4-yl)methoxyphenyl]ethyl}-2-phenyl-1,3-oxazol-4-yl)methanol;~~

~~(5-{2-[4-(5-methyl-2-phenyl-1,3-oxazol-4-yl)methoxyphenyl]ethyl}-2-phenyl-1,3-oxazol-4-yl)acetonitrile;~~

~~ethyl 2-ethoxycarbonyl-3-(5-{2-[4-(5-methyl-2-phenyl-1,3-oxazol-4-yl)methoxyphenyl]ethyl}-2-phenyl-1,3-oxazol-4-yl)propionate;~~

~~methyl 3-(4-{[2-(2-furyl)-5-methyl-1,3-oxazol-4-ylmethoxy]-3-methoxybenzyl}oxy)-1-phenyl-1H-pyrazole-5-carboxylate;~~

~~[3-(4-{[2-(2-furyl)-5-methyl-1,3-oxazol-4-ylmethoxy]-3-methoxybenzyl}oxy)-1-phenyl-1H-pyrazol-5-yl]methanol;~~

~~3-(4-{[2-(2-furyl)-5-methyl-1,3-oxazol-4-ylmethoxy]-3-methoxybenzyl}oxy)-1-phenyl-1H-pyrazole-5-carbaldehyde; and~~

~~[3-(4-{[2-(2-furyl)-5-methyl-1,3-oxazol-4-ylmethoxy]-3-methoxybenzyl}oxy)-1-phenyl-1H-pyrazol-5-yl]acetonitrile,~~ or a salt thereof.

2.-3. (Canceled)

4. (Original) The compound of claim 1, wherein X is a bond.

5. (Original) The compound of claim 1, wherein Q is a C_{1-6} alkylene or a C_{2-6} alkenylene.

6. (Original) The compound of claim 1, wherein Y is an oxygen atom.

7. (Canceled)

8. (Original) The compound of claim 1, wherein the substituent that ring B may further have is a hydrocarbon group.

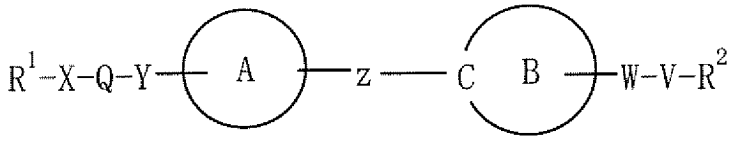
9. (Original) The compound of claim 8, wherein the hydrocarbon group is a C_{1-10} alkyl group, a C_{7-13} aralkyl group or a C_{6-14} aryl group.

10. (Original) The compound of claim 1, wherein V is a bond.

11.-14. (Canceled)

15. (Currently Amended) The compound of claim 1, wherein W is a C_{1-6} alkylene or a C_{2-6} alkenylene; and V is a bond~~; and R^2 is $-PO(OR^9)(OR^{10})$ (R^9 and R^{10} are the same or different and each is a hydrogen atom or an optionally substituted hydrocarbon group, or R^9 and R^{10} are optionally bonded to form an optionally substituted ring) or an optionally substituted heterocyclic group~~.

16. (Currently Amended) A pharmaceutical composition comprising the compound represented by the formula:



(I)

wherein

R^1 is an optionally substituted ~~5-membered heterocyclic~~ oxazolyl group;

X, Y and V

are the same or different and each is a bond, an oxygen atom, a sulfur atom, -CO-, -CS-, -SO-, $-SO_2-$, $-CR^3(OR^4)-$, $-NR^5-$, $-CONR^6-$, $-NR^6CO-$, $-CSNR^6-$, $-NR^6CS-$ or $-CONR^6NR^7-$ (R^3 is a hydrogen atom or an optionally substituted hydrocarbon group, R^4 is a hydrogen atom or a hydroxyl-protecting group, R^5 is a hydrogen atom, an optionally substituted hydrocarbon group or an amino-protecting

group, and R^6 and R^7 are the same or different and each is a hydrogen atom or an optionally substituted hydrocarbon group);

Q is a divalent hydrocarbon group having 1 to 20 carbon atoms;

ring A is ~~an aromatic ring~~ a benzene ring optionally further having 1 to 3 substituents;

Z is $-(CH_2)_n-Z^1-$ or $-Z^1-(CH_2)_n-$ (n is an integer of ~~0~~ 1 to 8 and Z^1 is ~~a bond,~~ an oxygen atom, ~~a sulfur atom, -CO-, -CS-, -SO-, $-SO_2-$, $-NR^8-$, $-CONR^8-$, $-NR^8CO-$, $-CSNR^8-$ or $-NR^8CS-$ (R^8 is a hydrogen atom or an optionally substituted hydrocarbon group)~~);

ring B is a ~~nitrogen-containing heterocycle~~ pyrazole ring optionally further having 1 to 3 substituents;

W is a bond or a divalent hydrocarbon group having 1 to 20 carbon atoms; and

R^2 is ~~a hydrogen atom, a cyano group,~~ $-PO(OR^9)(OR^{10})$ (R^9 and R^{10} are the same or different and each is a hydrogen atom or an optionally substituted hydrocarbon group, or R^9 and R^{10} are optionally bonded to form an optionally substituted ring)~~,~~ ~~$-COR^{11}$ (R^{11} is a hydrogen atom, an optionally substituted hydrocarbon group, an optionally substituted heterocyclic group, $-OR^{12}$ (R^{12} is a hydrogen atom or an optionally substituted hydrocarbon group) or $-NR^{13}R^{14}$ (R^{13} and R^{14} are the same or different and each is a hydrogen atom, an optionally substituted hydrocarbon group, an optionally substituted heterocyclic group, an optionally substituted acyl group or an optionally substituted hydroxy group, or R^{13} and R^{14} are optionally bonded to form an optionally~~

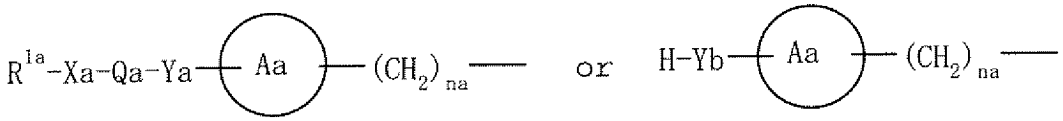
~~substituted ring)], an optionally substituted hydrocarbon group,~~ or an optionally substituted ~~heterocyclic~~ thiazolyl group,

provided that

~~1) -W-V-R2 is not "Wa-(C=O)-R^a [Wa is a saturated divalent hydrocarbon group having 1 to 20 carbon atoms and R^a is -OR^b (R^b is a hydrogen atom or an optionally substituted hydrocarbon group) or -NR^cR^d (R^c and R^d are the same or different and each is a hydrogen atom, an optionally substituted hydrocarbon group, an optionally substituted heterocyclic group or an acyl group, and R^c and R^d are optionally bonded to form an optionally substituted ring together with the adjacent nitrogen atom)]",~~

~~2~~ 1) ring A and ring B do not have a substituent represented by the formula: -Wa-(C=O)-R^a [Wa is a saturated divalent hydrocarbon group having 1 to 20 carbon atoms and R^a is -OR^b (R^b is a hydrogen atom or an optionally substituted hydrocarbon group) or -NR^cR^d (R^c and R^d are the same or different and each is a hydrogen atom, an optionally substituted hydrocarbon group, an optionally substituted heterocyclic group or an acyl group, and R^c and R^d are optionally bonded to form an optionally substituted ring together with the adjacent nitrogen atom)] ~~(Wa and R^a are as defined above)~~,

~~3~~ 2) ring B does not have, on a ring-constituting N atom, a substituent represented by the formula:



wherein

R^{1a} is an optionally substituted hydrocarbon group or an optionally substituted heterocyclic group;

Xa and Ya

are the same or different and each is a bond, an oxygen atom, a sulfur atom, -CO-, -CS-, -SO-, -SO_2-, -$CR^{3a}(OR^{4a})$-, -NR^{5a}-, -$CONR^{6a}$- or -$NR^{6a}CO$- (R^{3a} is a hydrogen atom or an optionally substituted hydrocarbon group, R^{4a} is a hydrogen atom or a hydroxyl-protecting group, R^{5a} is a hydrogen atom, an optionally substituted hydrocarbon group or an amino-protecting group, R^{6a} is a hydrogen atom or an optionally substituted hydrocarbon group);

Qa is a divalent hydrocarbon group having 1 to 20 carbon atoms;

ring Aa is an aromatic ring optionally further having 1 to 3 substituents;

na is an integer of 1 to 8; and

Yb is an oxygen atom, a sulfur atom or -NR^{6a}- (R^{6a} is as defined above),

[[4]] 3) -X-Q-Y- is not -(CH_2)na- (na is an integer of 1 to 8),

~~5) when the nitrogen-containing heterocycle represented by ring B is a pyridine ring, the ring B does not have a further substituent, W is a divalent hydrocarbon group having 1 to 20 carbon atoms, V is a bond and R^2 is -$PO(OR^9)(OR^{10})$ or an optionally substituted heterocyclic group,~~

~~6~~ 4) when R^1 has a substituent represented by the formula: -Wa-(C=O)-R^a (Wa and R^a are as defined above), W is a divalent hydrocarbon group having 1 to 20 carbon atoms~~,~~ and V is a bond ~~and R^2 is -$PO(OR^9)(OR^{10})$ or an optionally substituted heterocyclic group~~,

or a salt thereof or a prodrug thereof.

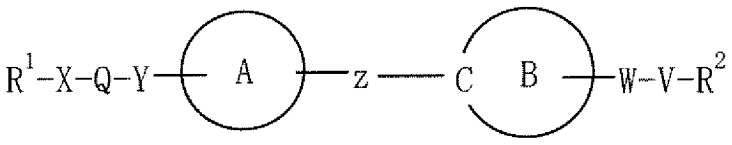
17. (Currently Amended) The pharmaceutical composition of claim 16, which is an agent for the ~~prophylaxis or~~ treatment of diabetes mellitus.

18.-19. (Canceled)

20. (Currently Amended) The pharmaceutical composition of claim 16, which is an agent for the ~~prophylaxis or~~ treatment of obesity.

21. (Canceled)

22. (Currently Amended) A retinoid-related receptor function regulating agent, which comprises the compound represented by the formula:



(I)

wherein

R1 is an optionally substituted ~~5-membered heterocyclic~~ oxazolyl group;

X, Y and V

are the same or different and each is a bond, an oxygen atom, a sulfur atom, -CO-, -CS-, -SO-, -SO_2-, -$CR^3(OR^4)$-, -NR^5-, -$CONR^6$-, -NR^6CO-, -$CSNR^6$-, -NR^6CS- or -$CONR^6NR^7$- (R^3 is a hydrogen atom or an optionally substituted hydrocarbon group, R^4 is a hydrogen atom or a hydroxyl-protecting group, R^5 is a hydrogen atom, an optionally substituted hydrocarbon group or an amino-protecting group, and R^6 and R^7 are the same or different and each is a hydrogen atom or an optionally substituted hydrocarbon group);

Q is a divalent hydrocarbon group having 1 to 20 carbon atoms;

ring A is ~~an aromatic ring~~ a benzene ring optionally further having 1 to 3 substituents;

Z is $-(CH_2)n-Z^1-$ or $-Z^1-(CH_2)_n-$ (n is an integer of ~~0~~ 1 to 8 and Z^1 is ~~a bond,~~ an oxygen atom~~, a sulfur atom, -CO-, -CS-, -SO-, -SO$_2$-, -NR^8-, -CONR^8-, -NR^{8}CO-, -CSNR^8- or -NR^{8}CS- (R^8 is a hydrogen atom or an optionally substituted hydrocarbon group)~~);

ring B is a ~~nitrogen-containing heterocycle~~ pyrazole ring optionally further having 1 to 3 substituents;

W is a bond or a divalent hydrocarbon group having 1 to 20 carbon atoms; and

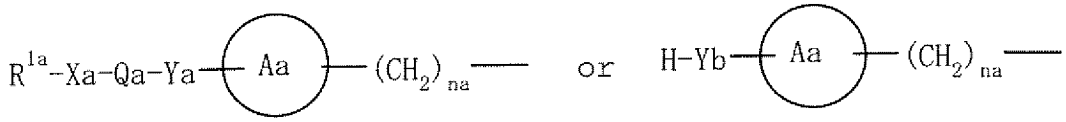
R^2 is ~~a hydrogen atom, a cyano group,~~ $-PO(OR^9)(OR^{10})$ (R^9 and R^{10} are the same or different and each is a hydrogen atom or an optionally substituted hydrocarbon group, or R^9 and R^{10} are optionally bonded to form an optionally substituted ring)~~,~~ ~~-COR^{11} [R^{11} is a hydrogen atom, an optionally substituted hydrocarbon group, an optionally substituted heterocyclic group, -OR^{12} (R^{12} is a hydrogen atom or an optionally substituted hydrocarbon group) or -NR^{13}R^{14} (R^{13} and R^{14} are the same or different and each is a hydrogen atom, an optionally substituted hydrocarbon group, an optionally substituted heterocyclic group, an optionally substituted acyl group or an optionally substituted hydroxy group, or R^{13} and R^{14} are optionally bonded to form an optionally substituted ring)], an optionally substituted hydrocarbon group,~~ or an optionally substituted ~~heterocyclic~~ thiazolyl group,

provided that

~~1) -W-V-R2 is not "Wa-(C=O)-R^a [Wa is a saturated divalent hydrocarbon group having 1 to 20 carbon atoms and R^a is -OR^b (R^b is a hydrogen atom or an optionally substituted hydrocarbon group) or -NR^cR^d (R^c and R^d are the same or different and each is a hydrogen atom, an optionally substituted hydrocarbon group, an optionally substituted heterocyclic group or an acyl group, and R^c and R^d are optionally bonded to form an optionally substituted ring together with the adjacent nitrogen atom)]",~~

~~2~~ 1) ring A and ring B do not have a substituent represented by the formula: -Wa-(C=O)-R^a [Wa is a saturated divalent hydrocarbon group having 1 to 20 carbon atoms and R^a is -OR^b (R^b is a hydrogen atom or an optionally substituted hydrocarbon group) or -NR^cR^d (R^c and R^d are the same or different and each is a hydrogen atom, an optionally substituted hydrocarbon group, an optionally substituted heterocyclic group or an acyl group, and R^c and R^d are optionally bonded to form an optionally substitued ring together with the adjacent nitrogen atom)] ~~(Wa and R^a are as defined above)~~,

~~3~~ 2) ring B does not have, on a ring-constituting N atom, a substituent represented by the formula:



wherein

R^{1a} is an optionally substituted hydrocarbon group or an optionally substituted heterocyclic group;

Xa and Ya

are the same or different and each is a bond, an oxygen atom, a sulfur atom, -CO-, -CS-, -SO-, -SO_2-, -$CR^{3a}(OR^{4a})$-, -NR^{5a}-, -$CONR^{6a}$- or -$NR^{6a}CO$- (R^{3a} is a hydrogen atom or an optionally substituted hydrocarbon group, R^{4a} is a hydrogen atom

or a hydroxyl-protecting group, R^{5a} is a hydrogen atom, an optionally substituted hydrocarbon group or an amino-protecting group, R^{6a} is a hydrogen atom or an optionally substituted hydrocarbon group);

Qa is a divalent hydrocarbon group having 1 to 20 carbon atoms;

ring Aa is an aromatic ring optionally further having 1 to 3 substituents;

na is an integer of 1 to 8; and

Yb is an oxygen atom, a sulfur atom or $-NR^{6a}-$ (R^{6a} is as defined above),

[[4]] 3) -X-Q-Y- is not $-(CH_2)na-$ (na is an integer of 1 to 8),

~~5) when the nitrogen-containing heterocycle represented by ring B is a pyridine ring, the ring B does not have a further substituent, W is a divalent hydrocarbon group having 1 to 20 carbon atoms, V is a bond and R^2 is $-PO(OR^9)(OR^{10})$ or an optionally substituted heterocyclic group,~~

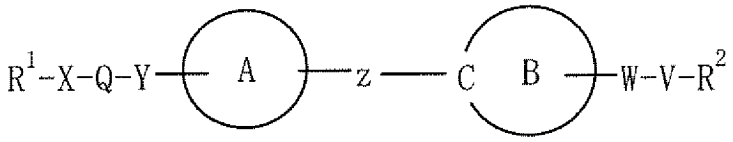
~~6~~ 4) when R1 has a substituent represented by the formula: $-Wa-(C=O)-R^a$ (Wa and R^a are as defined above), W is a divalent hydrocarbon group having 1 to 20 carbon atoms~~,~~ and V is a bond ~~and R^2 is $-PO(OR^9)(OR^{10})$ or an optionally substituted heterocyclic group,~~

or a salt thereof or a prodrug thereof.

23. (Original) The agent of claim 22, which is a peroxisome proliferator-activated receptor ligand.

24. (Original) The agent of claim 22, which is a retinoid X receptor ligand.

25. (Currently Amended) An agent for improving insulin resistance, which comprises the compound represented by the formula:



(I)

wherein

R1 is an optionally substituted ~~5-membered heterocyclic~~ oxazolyl group;

X, Y and V

are the same or different and each is a bond, an oxygen atom, a sulfur atom, -CO-, -CS-, -SO-, -SO_2-, -$CR^3(OR^4)$-, -NR^5-, -$CONR^6$-, -NR^6CO-, -$CSNR^6$-, -NR^6CS- or -$CONR^6NR^7$- (R^3 is a hydrogen atom or an optionally substituted hydrocarbon group, R^4 is a hydrogen atom or a hydroxyl-protecting group, R^5 is a hydrogen atom, an optionally substituted hydrocarbon group or an amino-protecting group, and R^6 and R^7 are the same or different and each is a hydrogen atom or an optionally substituted hydrocarbon group);

Q is a divalent hydrocarbon group having 1 to 20 carbon atoms;

ring A is ~~an aromatic ring~~ a benzene ring optionally further having 1 to 3 substituents;

Z is -$(CH_2)_n$-Z^1- or -Z^1-$(CH_2)_n$- (n is an integer of ~~0~~ 1 to 8 and Z^1 is ~~a bond,~~ an oxygen atom~~, a sulfur atom, -CO-, -CS-, -SO-, -SO2-, -NR8-, -CONR8-, -NR8CO-, -CSNR8- or -NR8CS- (R8 is a hydrogen atom or an optionally substituted hydrocarbon group)~~);

ring B is a ~~nitrogen-containing heterocycle~~ pyrazole ring optionally further having 1 to 3 substituents;

W is a bond or a divalent hydrocarbon group having 1 to 20 carbon atoms; and

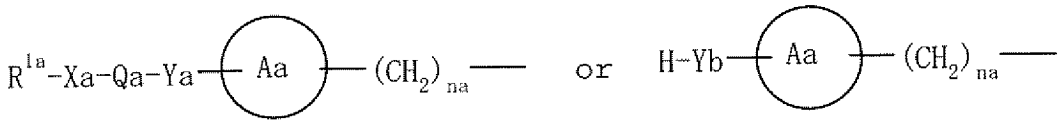
R^2 is ~~a hydrogen atom, a cyano group,~~ $-PO(OR^9)(OR^{10})$ (R^9 and R^{10} are the same or different and each is a hydrogen atom or an optionally substituted hydrocarbon group, or R^9 and R^{10} are optionally bonded to form an optionally substituted ring), ~~$-COR^{11}$ [R^{11} is a hydrogen atom, an optionally substituted hydrocarbon group, an optionally substituted heterocyclic group, $-OR^{12}$ (R^{12} is a hydrogen atom or an optionally substituted hydrocarbon group) or $-NR^{13}R^{14}$ (R^{13} and R^{14} are the same or different and each is a hydrogen atom, an optionally substituted hydrocarbon group, an optionally substituted heterocyclic group, an optionally substituted acyl group or an optionally substituted hydroxy group, or R^{13} and R^{14} are optionally bonded to form an optionally substituted ring)], an optionally substituted hydrocarbon group,~~ or an optionally substituted ~~heterocyclic~~ thiazolyl group,

provided that

~~1) -W-V-R2 is not "Wa-(C=O)-R^a [Wa is a saturated divalent hydrocarbon group having 1 to 20 carbon atoms and R^a is $-OR^b$ (R^b is a hydrogen atom or an optionally substituted hydrocarbon group) or $-NR^cR^d$ (R^c and R^d are the same or different and each is a hydrogen atom, an optionally substituted hydrocarbon group, an optionally substituted heterocyclic group or an acyl group, and R^c and R^d are optionally bonded to form an optionally substituted ring together with the adjacent nitrogen atom)]",~~

2 1) ring A and ring B do not have a substituent represented by the formula: -Wa-(C=O)-R^a [Wa is a saturated divalent hydrocarbon group having 1 to 20 carbon atoms and R^a is -OR^b (R^b is a hydrogen atom or an optionally substitued hydrocarbon group) or -NR^cR^d (R^c and R^d are the same or different and each is a hydrogen atom, an optionally substituted hydrocarbon group, an optionally substituted heterocyclic group or an acyl group, and R^c and R^d are optionally bonded to form an optionally substituted ring together with the adjacent nitrogen atom)] ~~(Wa and R^a are as defined above)~~,

3 2) ring B does not have, on a ring-constituting N atom, a substituent represented by the formula:



wherein

R^{1a} is an optionally substituted hydrocarbon group or an optionally substituted heterocyclic group;

Xa and Ya

are the same or different and each is a bond, an oxygen atom, a sulfur atom, -CO-, -CS-, -SO-, -SO_2-, -$CR^{3a}(OR^{4a})$-, -NR^{5a}-, -$CONR^{6a}$- or -$NR^{6a}CO$- (R^{3a} is a hydrogen atom or an optionally substituted hydrocarbon group, R^{4a} is a hydrogen atom or a hydroxyl-protecting group, R^{5a} is a hydrogen atom, an optionally substituted hydrocarbon group or an amino-protecting group, R^{6a} is a hydrogen atom or an optionally substituted hydrocarbon group);

Qa is a divalent hydrocarbon group having 1 to 20 carbon atoms;

ring Aa is an aromatic ring optionally further having 1 to 3 substituents;

na is an integer of 1 to 8; and

Yb is an oxygen atom, a sulfur atom or -NR^{6a}- (R^{6a} is as defined above),

[[4]] 3) -X-Q-Y- is not -(CH_2)na- (na is an integer of 1 to 8),

~~5) when the nitrogen-containing heterocycle represented by ring B is a pyridine ring, the ring B does not have a further substituent, W is a divalent hydrocarbon group having 1 to 20 carbon atoms, V is a bond and R^2 is -$PO(OR^9)(OR^{10})$ or an optionally substituted heterocyclic group,~~

~~6~~ 4) when R^1 has a substituent represented by the formula: -Wa-(C=O)-R^a (Wa and R^a are as defined above), W is a divalent hydrocarbon group having 1 to 20 carbon atoms~~,~~ and V is a bond ~~and R^2 is -$PO(OR^9)(OR^{10})$ or an optionally substituted heterocyclic group,~~

or a salt thereof or a prodrug thereof.

26.-29. (Canceled)